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LB 914, 925

Business Council made as one of its recommendations on working conditions and on childcare as a short to medium term recommendation the creation of tax incentives for businesses, tax incentives to entice employers to create an on-site program or near-site program or create incentives for employers who want to provide a voucher to employees. This comes from the Governor's Business Council trying to seek ways of improving not only the workplace but also the attractiveness of working in Nebraska. Of the top 100 companies in America according to one of the surveys that was given to us come hearing time, 29 of them provided childcare. Now that is a remarkable percentage given how many corporations normally provide childcare because at this point there are roughly six that we know of in the state of Nebraska, six in the state of Nebraska; but out of the top 100, 30 percent of them are providing childcare. And those are the places that people want to work. One of the reasons, the employer provides childcare. Now this is going to take a long time to get through so let me tell you what's coming up and then we can take up maybe the next speech or the first amendment and then maybe adjourn. Senator Suttle has an amendment. She had a bill before the Revenue Committee. It sought to link childcare to quality standards, and I think she's going to offer that amendment. I think that's up next. Senator Hilgert has a bill which, in fact, was in the Health and Human Services Committee, I'm not sure whether it got reported out, I think it did, okay, it was LB 914, and it changes the existing childcare rules for mothers on ADC. What it does is essentially save the state about \$1,400,000. It has some controversy with the Governor's Office, but that's ahead of us. Chairman Wickersham has an amendment and his is a definition of costs, something that is, in fact, lacking from the bill. I find his definition somewhat uncharitable and I don't agree with it, but the notion that there should probably be a definition of costs is probably a pretty sensible thing to do and this gives me the weekend to work on that. Senator Kiel has an amendment that I think she wants to introduce and talk about, I'm not sure whether she wants to vote on that one or not, but it has a longstanding concern for her. And Senator Brown has an amendment that brings her idea on what to do on childcare to the floor on this bill. So it being 8:03 on this Wednesday evening, I wanted to open on the bill so you know what's ahead of you. And whenever you become exhausted and want to collapse, a motion to adjourn would